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**THE VILLARD-BANDELIER SOUTH AMERICAN
EXPEDITION.**

BY FRANK HAMILTON CUSHING.

Readers of the *ANTHROPOLOGIST* have reason to rejoice with those who best know Prof. Adolf F. Bandelier, over his recent appointment and at once ample and unconditional endowment for anthropologic research in such fields of interest as Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador, by so enlightened a patron of Science and Letters as Mr. Henry Villard, of New York city.

Professor Bandelier's many years of fruitful research in early Spanish-American documentary history, and his wide experience in the actual field of archeology and ethnography, in connection with the Archeological Institute of America and the Hemenway South-western Archeological Expedition, have admirably prepared him for this new work, as have his kindred studies abroad and in Mexico; but, even without such qualification, Mr. Villard's choice would find full vindication in the outline of proposed undertakings, from which Professor Bandelier obligingly permits us to glean the following notes:

Speaking of his plan of exploration, he modestly claims that the idea of it is not new, citing, in proof, the researches of Bouguer and La Condamine, a hundred years ago, of Humboldt since then, and, later, of Squier, Wiener, Reiss and Stübel. This plan, nevertheless, includes, as will be seen, very important new features, as applied at least to the field contemplated, for he says:

“Modern science demands the study of archeology from the point of view of a resurrection of the past, and not from the standpoint of a mere collection of fossil remains; hence it must be intimately connected with ethnological observation, as well as with close historical study. It will not suffice to play the grave-digger successfully; we must intelligently compare and be guided . . . by what can be seen and studied among living types. Furthermore, we must be able to discriminate between what is primitive and what may have resulted from European impingement; hence it is essential that we become enabled, through documentary re-

search, to trace the line along which the new has begun to modify the old. In addition, the influence of nature upon man must be taken carefully into account, actual phenomena observed, and their permanence, or periodical recurrence, at least approximately determined. In this manner not only physical geography but zoölogy, botany, and geology become indispensable auxiliaries of the archeological studies, . . . and the practical importance of the latter is correspondingly enhanced.

"Peru can be separated neither archeologically nor ethnologically, still less historically, from Bolivia and Ecuador. The primitive linguistic connection existing between a large proportion of the aborigines of these areas is an evidence of this."

In keeping with this idea, and otherwise most pertinently and justly, Professor Bandelier adds that "the valuable discoveries, that the mode of life of the American aborigines was primitively framed after one sociological principle on the whole American continent, and that consequently the culture of the American Indian has varied locally only in *degree*, not in *kind*; that the religious principles were fundamentally the same among the Sioux and the Brazilians, and that physical causes, more than anything else, have lain at the bottom of local differences in culture, have not until lately been recognized as *facts*." These discoveries render explorations in Peru and adjacent countries doubly necessary, since there is no doubt that "American aboriginal civilization reached, under the Incas, the highest development in the useful arts, in social organization, and tribal sway, which it ever attained on the continent of America."

Professor Bandelier sailed from San Francisco for his new field on June 6th, and will begin his researches, mostly documentary, in Bolivia. Later, in order to achieve the greatest results within the three years to which he limits the present stage of his reconnaissance, he, with only three companions of his personal selection, will examine carefully the high and cold regions of Bolivia and contiguous parts of Peru—the well-known Inca and Aymara remains of Lake Titicaca, Tiahuanuco, Cuzco, and the Páramos—depending wholly for assistance in excavation, etc., when needed, on indigenous help.

During the Antarctic winters, corresponding to our warmer seasons, he will investigate the torrid, but marvelously rich valleys leading down to the coast, and the equally important Chincha as

well as other coast islands ; making careful surveys of special ruins and whole clusters or groups, and excavations, and collections, both ancient and modern, at points of special richness or interest ; and during the warmer seasons there, doing the like on the plateaus of the interior. The greater part of the third year will be devoted to Ecuador, practically a new field even to a greater extent than is Bolivia.

It will be seen that in this manner the thoroughness of investigation of Reiss and Stübel at Ancón will be combined with even greater scope of observation than that of Squier as recorded in his valuable "Land of the Incas."

Professor Bandelier intends that the chief fruits of his expedition shall consist of archeological and ethnological collections, to which end all of his associates will be required to turn over everything collected privately as well as officially.

Books and documents will be secured also, if possible, and no one is so well fitted either for acquiring or consulting such as is Professor Bandelier. He enjoys, through his unusual familiarity with Spanish, archeographic as well as modern, special facilities, and through his sympathetic relation with all Spanish-American authorities both civil and ecclesiastical, unique opportunities for this. He will earnestly recommend that such collections be placed in one or another of our great libraries. He will also give particular attention to photography, in which fidelity to the subject will be combined with careful execution, thus resulting in a thoroughly typical series of views, which object is, he feels confident, already insured by the choice he has made of an assistant, who, in addition to long training in field-photography, combines with this, special knowledge of the subject, and rare judgment as an illustrator.

Professor Bandelier expects that excavation at Chimu, Pachacamac, and others of the great adobe ruins and *huacas* in the coast valleys (the so-called Yunca remains, which are distinct from the Incan and Aymaran) will reveal large collections of pottery of the imitative types so commonly seen in Peruvian collections ; textile fabrics of brilliant designs ; some few gold and silver objects ; bronze, stone and wooden implements, utensils and weapons, together with cloth-enclosed mummies ; while in the islands, burial and sacrificial remains, consisting chiefly of vessels, fetiches, carvings, and weapons, will be found. The ethnologic collections of the coast, gathered among remnants of Yunca and other pre-Incan tribes, will

be meager, though not entirely wanting, and, it is hoped, of importance for comparison.

In the high plateaus of Bolivia and of southeastern Peru; other types of pottery will be found, depending on color-decoration rather more than on modeling; textiles, being less protected by dryness, will prove rarer; while metallic objects, especially of bronze, will be found more abundant. Stone sculptures, like those exhibited on the great monolithic gateway of Tiahuanuco, the statues of Chuquito, and columns of Hatun, and Hurin-colla will be secured when small, moulded for reproduction elsewhere when of great size. The mummies and burial accessories of the Chulpas, everywhere found throughout this region, will add not inconsiderably to these material representations of ancient Aymara culture, illustrating in what wise this latter has been caused to differ, through effects of environment, from Yunca culture.

The collections from the Inca territories proper will present a blending of the two preceding types with one developed *in situ*; metallic objects (of silver, copper, bronze and to a limited extent gold) will occur more abundantly; also idols, etc., of both stone and metal; but textiles and pottery will prove rare, and throughout the entire region must be procured largely by purchase or favor from collections and cabinets already existing. Here, however, the ethnologic collections will be richer, especially in the line of household implements, costume, dance paraphernalia, etc.

If possible, studies will be prosecuted and collections made among the hitherto almost uninvestigated cannibal tribes of the Pampa de Sacramento and elsewhere along the upper Amazon.

The antiquities, as well as the ethnology of Ecuador are far from well known. Professor Bandelier expects to find there remains of a stone, rather than, to any great extent, of a metal age, and pottery of a less decorative and elaborate type. He has evidence that the carved stone-work will, however, prove striking and interesting. The writings of Father Velasco and of Fray Marcos de Nizza, serve to make known the little that may be relied on relative to that most interesting aboriginal people of Quito and environs, the Scyri, and we hope, and do not doubt, that the same success will attend Professor Bandelier in following here the footsteps of Fray Marcos, which signalized his following of them to the land, also discovered by that same wonderful friar, of Cibola, or the Seven Zuñi cities, in our own Southwest.